

Frequently Asked Questions on Serious Emotional Disturbance

(FAQ on “SED”)

What does “SED” mean?

SED is an acronym for serious emotional disturbance.

Is there any entitlement or special status regarding receipt of behavioral health services associated with being SED?

No. In 1990, only children with a serious emotional disturbance had full Title XIX behavioral health coverage in Arizona. Since 1992, all children who are Title XIX (and now Title XXI as well) have full behavioral health coverage regardless of SED category.

If there is no special status associated with being SED, why does the State require or collect information on SED?

The federal block grants and AHCCCS require counts of children served who are SED for statistical purposes.

How is SED determined in Arizona?

In Arizona, SED is determined based on the child’s diagnosis (see list below).

Are SED diagnoses the same as SMI diagnoses?

Not exactly. An SMI diagnosis qualifies as an SED diagnosis as well, but there are additional SED diagnoses that are not SMI (see list below).

Is SED the same as SEH?

No. SEH means serious emotional handicap and is an educational term to describe a child who requires special education as a result of an emotional disturbance. Children who are determined to be emotionally handicapped by their home school district should be referred to the local RBHA. The RBHA will work with the local school district to provide supportive services to maintain the child in their home community.

Do children with SED require second level review?

If the child has a diagnosis and functional level based on the Arizona Level of Functioning Assessment that requires second level review, the child’s record must be reviewed by a psychiatrist, psychologist, physician assistant or nurse practitioner to determine if the child needs a face-to-face visit by a psychiatrist, psychologist, physician assistant or nurse practitioner for further evaluation or treatment.

What ADHS/DBHS policies apply to determination of SED and second level review?

The ADHS/DBHS Policy 2.44 on Behavioral Health Category Assignment describes how children are assigned to the SED category. The ADHS/DBHS Policy 1.1 on the Arizona Level Of Functioning Assessment describes how second level review is performed.

SMI/SED Diagnoses

Schizophrenia (295.10, 295.20, 295.30, 295.60, 295.70, 295.90)

Other Psychotic Disorders (297.1, 298.9)

Bipolar Disorders (296.00, 296.01, 296.02, 296.03, 296.04, 296.05, 296.06, 296.40, 296.41, 296.42, 296.43, 296.44, 296.45, 296.46, 296.50, 296.51, 296.52, 296.53, 296.54, 296.55, 296.56, 296.60, 296.61, 296.62, 296.63, 296.64, 296.65, 296.66, 296.7, 296.80, 296.89)

Depressive Disorders (296.20, 296.21, 296.22, 296.23, 296.24, 296.25, 296.26, 296.30, 296.31, 296.32, 296.33, 296.34, 296.35, 296.36, 296.90, 300.4, 301.13, 311)

Anxiety Disorders (300.00, 300.01, 300.02, 300.21, 300.22, 300.3, 309.81)

Dissociative Identity Disorder(300.14)

Personality Disorders (301.0, 301.20, 301.22, 301.4, 301.50, 301.6, 301.81, 301.82, 301.83, 301.9)

Additional SED Diagnoses

Anxiety Disorders (309.21, 313.89)

Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorders (314.00, 314.01, 314.9)

Eating Disorders (307.1, 307.5x)

Pervasive Developmental Disorders (299.xx)

Oppositional Defiant Disorder (313.81)

Impulse Control Disorders (312.30, 312.33, 312.34, 312.9)

Phobic Disorders (300.23, 300.29)

Elimination Disorders (307.6, 307.7)

Tic Disorders/Trichotillomania (307.2x, 307.3, 312.39)